

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A domestic appliance having a control panel, the control panel comprising:
 - a switch to be selectively turned on and off by relative movement of a moving part and a fixed part;
 - a manipulating member configured to be operated in conjunction with the moving part to selectively turn on and off the switch, and provided with a remote control signal passing part to allow a signal from a remote controller to pass; and
 - a signal-receiving unit placed behind the manipulating member to receive a remote control signal through the manipulating member.
2. The domestic appliance as set forth in claim 1, wherein:
 - the signal-receiving unit comprises a light-receiving diode to detect an infrared remote control signal; and
 - the remote control signal passing part is made of a material through which an infrared ray passes.
3. The domestic appliance as set forth in claim 1, wherein the manipulating member is provided with a switch interlocking part; and
 - the domestic appliance further comprises an electrical component unit in which the switch is placed at a location corresponding to a location of the switch interlocking part and the signal-

receiving unit is placed at a location corresponding to a location of a center of the manipulating member.

4. The domestic appliance as set forth in claim 3, wherein the switch and the signal-receiving unit are placed on a same base plate.

5. The domestic appliance as set forth in claim 1, wherein the switch includes a push button switch; and

the domestic appliance further comprises a plate-shaped elastic support part, a first end of which is fastened to the manipulating member and a second end of which is fastened to a support surface to elastically support the manipulating member.

6. The domestic appliance as set forth in claim 5, wherein:

the manipulating member is provided with a switch interlocking part at a first end of the manipulating member to make contact with the switch;

the manipulating member is provided with a support part at a second end of the manipulating member to make contact with the support surface; and

the elastic support part is fastened between the switch interlocking part and the support part of the second end of the manipulating member, at an end of the elastic support part.

7. The domestic appliance as set forth in claim 5, wherein the elastic support part and the manipulating member are integrated with each other.

8. The domestic appliance as set forth in claim 5, further comprising:

a display unit placed in a body of the domestic appliance to display operational status of the domestic appliance; and

a display window formed in a portion of the elastic support part fastened to the body at a location corresponding to a location of the display unit to be integrated with the elastic support part so as to allow a user to view an operational status.

9. The domestic appliance as set forth in claim 8, wherein the display unit includes a plurality of light-emitting diodes.

10. The domestic appliance as set forth in claim 8, wherein the display unit and the signal-receiving unit are placed on a same base plate.

11. The domestic appliance as set forth in claim 8, wherein the elastic support part, the display window and the manipulating member are integrated with each other.

12. The domestic appliance as set forth in claim 11, wherein the elastic support part, the display window and the switch are integrated with each other into a synthetic resin mold.

13. The domestic appliance as set forth in claim 12, further comprising a cover provided with a display hole and a through-hole and attached to the body to form an appearance of the control panel, wherein the mold is fastened to the cover so that the display window is placed in the display hole and the manipulating member is exposed through the through-hole.

14. The domestic appliance as set forth in claim 13, wherein the manipulating member is provided with retaining parts at an edge of the manipulating member to prevent the manipulating member from being separated from the cover through the through-hole.

15. The domestic appliance as set forth in claim 13, wherein the cover is detachably mounted in a recess formed in the body.

16. The domestic appliance as set forth in claim 12, wherein the mold is made of a translucent material having a predetermined amount of elasticity.

17. A domestic appliance having a control panel, the control panel comprising:
a switch to be selectively turned on and off by relative movement of a moving part and a fixed part; and
a manipulating member provided with a switch interlocking part to be operated in conjunction with the moving part to selectively turn on and off the switch, and a rod-shaped elastic

support part extended from an end of the manipulating member and fastened to a fixed member at an end of the rod shaped elastic support part.

18. The domestic appliance as set forth in claim 17, wherein:
 - the switch interlocking part is formed on a first end of the manipulating member;
 - the manipulating member is provided with a support part, which is supported by a support surface, at a second end of the manipulating member; and
 - the elastic support part is extended from the manipulating member at a location between the switch interlocking part and the support part at the second end of the manipulating member.
19. The domestic appliance as set forth in claim 17, wherein the manipulating member and the elastic support part are made of a same material to be integrated with each other.
20. The domestic appliance as set forth in claim 1, wherein the manipulating member has a surface which is pressed by a user to turn on and off the switch, the surface being disposed at a location in front of the signal-receiving unit and is part of the remote control signal passing part, such that the remote control signal passes through the surface and reaches the signal-receiving unit.
21. The domestic appliance as set forth in claim 20, wherein the remote control signal is an infrared signal.

22. The domestic appliance as set forth in claim 17, wherein the manipulating member has a surface which is pressed by a user to turn on and off the switch, the surface being made of a material that allows a signal from a remote controller to pass.

23. The domestic appliance as set forth in claim 22, wherein the signal is an infrared signal.